

With kind personal regards,
Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER, *Chairman.*

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4613, sponsored by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER), would amend the National Historic Preservation Act to create a program under which historic lighthouses might be transferred to State, local, or private ownership. Such a program is needed as technological developments render more and more of these properties outdated. It would be a shame, indeed, if historical and educational values of these old lighthouses were lost to all Americans simply because they are no longer needed by the ship captains.

Mr. Speaker, we support H.R. 4613, and we urge our colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER), the author of this legislation.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) for moving this bill forward, as well as the ranking minority member, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ), and his cosponsorship. I very much appreciate the bipartisan effort that we have been able to develop on this bill.

I also want to publicly thank Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska, who has been the leader in passing this in the last Congress in the Senate and through the Committee on Resources this time, and I hope we can finally get this bill done.

This bill would amend the National Historic Preservation Act to establish a historic lighthouse preservation program within the Department of the Interior. It also directs an improved process for conveying historic lighthouses. It has not been fair that some community organizations have worked to preserve and restore these lighthouses only in the conveyance process to have to go through a bidding process where first government agencies sometimes get a crack at it, other times private entities, and the very groups that worked so hard to preserve it get to be last in line. This, I believe, will correct that.

When a historic lighthouse has been deemed excess to the needs of the Federal Government, the General Services Administration will convey it, for free, so the groups do not get in a bidding war, to a selected entity for education, park, recreation, cultural, and historic preservation purposes. It is important to note that groups selected for conveyance will be obligated to maintain the integrity of these historic struc-

tures. In fact, lighthouses conveyed pursuant to this act would convert back to the Federal Government if the property ceases to be used for education, park, recreation, cultural or historic preservation purposes; or if it is not maintained in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

Having public access to these lighthouses is extremely important, and there are many more lighthouses, more than we have had in the many years up to this point that are about to be conveyed into the private sector. I have a couple of beautiful models from my office to illustrate this point. This is near Stony Brook on Long Island at Old Field Lighthouse. Here the local town uses this building for a community office and then the public can arrange tours to go through the lighthouse. That is a multiple-use purpose where the public can still appreciate this beautiful lighthouse.

I brought this one from my office today, the Spectacle Reef in the Great Lakes region, to illustrate another point that I want to make sure the legislative language reflects. Some of these are out in the middle of the Great Lakes, or off the shore in the ocean, or in Chesapeake Bay. Those lighthouses, we need to understand, will not have the same public access as would a lighthouse on the shore. While that is not in the bill, I think we understand that and it has been a point brought to our attention by the Great Lakes lightkeepers.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman again for his leadership, and I submit for the RECORD testimony offered at a hearing held before the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands regarding this topic:

TESTIMONY OF RICHARD L. MOEHL, PRESIDENT, GREAT LAKES LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Process and Policy process of this Bill (H.R. 4613) will determine the success of the legislation.

1. Off-shore and remote light stations deserve special considerations.

a. Seasonal and weather related access limits the practical and productive time at these light stations.

b. The cost of restoring and preserving these light stations is five to ten times the cost of restoring and preserving a drive-up-to light station.

c. Sanitation conditions are a challenge. Taking care of human waste is different today than when these light stations were originally operated. This may be THE major problem in restoring offshore lighthouses. A solution MUST be found.

d. Boat expenses for mooring, insurance, inspections, maintenance and operations can run into the tens of thousands of dollars per year.

2. The "open to the public" portion of the Bill needs some "teeth" put into the Process and Policy decision. Regulations are needed such as the prohibition of alcohol and tobacco products at the light station. We see too many boaters smoking and with alcohol products in hand visiting the St. Helena Is-

land Light Station. Prohibition of these risky activities would carry more enforcement weight if included in deeds.

3. The limitation on commercial activities cannot exclude fund raising for restoration, preservation and operational expenses.

4. Michigan Lighthouse Project: This collaboration of agencies and organizations to facilitate the transfer of historic light stations in the State of Michigan can be a model for other states and regions.

5. The State of Michigan, and possibly other states, has a law of public trust that prohibits certain uses of bottomlands upon which the off-shore lights in the State of Michigan are built. The interpretation of this "public trust" needs to be resolved in order for any of these light stations to be transferred. In the meanwhile long-term leases can transfer control; but there needs to be a little transfer provision for the lessee should the public trust law be resolved.

6. All eligible entities need to have access to surplus Federal personal property i.e. generators, boats and other needed supplies.

7. Group insurance, liability and theft/vandalism for valuable historic artifacts, coordinated with these transfers needs to be a consideration.

8. A National Lighthouse Preservation Fund should be put into place. Upwards of \$750,000 can be spent abating, stabilizing, dealing with public health issues, and completing a Historic Structures Report to begin the needed restoration process.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HUTCHINSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4613, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WILLING SELLER AMENDMENTS OF 2000 TO THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2267) to amend the National Trails System Act to clarify Federal authority relating to land acquisition from willing sellers for the majority of the trails, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2267

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Willing Seller Amendments of 2000 to the National Trails System Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In spite of commendable efforts by the governments of States and political subdivisions of

States and private volunteer trail groups to develop, operate, and maintain the national scenic and historic trails (referred to in this Act as the "trails"), the rate of progress towards developing and completing the trails is slower than anticipated.

(2) Nine national scenic and historic trails were authorized by Congress between 1978 and 1986 with restrictions totally excluding Federal authority for land acquisition. To complete these trails as intended by Congress, acquisition authority to secure necessary rights-of-way and historic sites and segments, limited to acquisition from willing sellers only, and specifically excluding condemnation, should be extended to the Secretary administering those trails.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that in order to address the problems involving multijurisdictional authority over the national trails system, the head of each Federal agency with jurisdiction over an individual trail should—

(1) cooperate with appropriate officials of States and political subdivisions of States and private persons with an interest in the trails to pursue the development of the trails; and

(2) be granted sufficient authority to purchase lands from willing sellers that are critical to the completion of the trails.

SEC. 4. INTENT.

It is the intent of Congress that lands or interests in lands for the 9 components of the National Trails System affected by this Act shall only be acquired by the Federal Government from willing sellers.

SEC. 5. AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT.

The National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 5(a)—

(A) in the fourth sentence of paragraph (11)—

(i) by striking "No lands or interest therein outside the exterior" and inserting "No lands or interest in lands outside of the exterior"; and

(ii) by inserting before the period the following: "without the consent of the owner of the land or interest"; and

(B) in the fourth sentence of paragraph (14)—

(i) by striking "No lands or interests therein outside the exterior" and inserting "No land or interest in land outside of the exterior"; and

(ii) by inserting before the period the following: "without the consent of the owner of the land or interest"; and

(2) in section 10(c), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following new paragraph:

"(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including any other provision of this Act), no funds may be expended by the Federal Government for the acquisition of any land or interest in land outside of the exterior boundaries of existing Federal lands for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, the North Country National Scenic Trail, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, the Oregon National Historic Trail, the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail, the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, or the Iditarod National Historic Trail, except with the consent of the owner of the land or interest. If the Federal Government fails to make payment in accordance with a contract for sale of land or an interest in land transferred under this paragraph, the seller may avail himself of all remedies available under all applicable law, including electing to void the sale."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2267, introduced by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS), amends the National Trails Systems Act to clarify Federal authority relating to land acquisition from willing sellers. The gentleman from Colorado is to be commended for correcting a long-standing problem with the National Trails System Act.

Mr. Speaker, under the existing statute, nine national scenic and historic trails have restrictions preventing the Federal Government from acquiring land from the trails outside of the exterior boundaries of any federally administered area. This bill would allow lands to be purchased by the Federal Government. However, H.R. 2267 specifically provides that such purchase can only be made with the consent of the owner of the land or interest.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2267, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as currently written, the National Trails Systems Act authorizes the Federal Government to acquire property for use as part of a national trail in some cases and not in others. Still in other instances, Federal authority regarding land purchases under the act is simply unclear. The development of a system of trails that is truly national in scope has been slower than supporters of the program had hoped, and we fear that this inconsistency regarding Federal land acquisition may be a contributing factor.

H.R. 2267 has strong bipartisan support, and it will amend the act to specify that as long as there is a willing seller, the Federal Government may acquire land under the Trails Act. We support such a change in the hope that clarity on this issue will allow the development of a national trails system to progress more quickly. We urge our colleagues to support H.R. 2267.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS), the author of this legislation.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to extend special recognition to two individuals in Colorado, Bruce and Paula Ward, who have given deep devotion to the Continental Divide Trail; and without their efforts, we would not be able to see progress like we have seen.

With that said, I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN). I also want to thank Tod and Allen for their efforts in regard to this. And last, but not least, I also want to thank the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ).

Mr. Speaker, I think that the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Utah, has adequately explained the bill in its fullness and within all four corners.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2267, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LINCOLN COUNTY LAND ACT OF 2000

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2752) to give Lincoln County, Nevada, the right to purchase at fair market value certain public land located within that county, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2752

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lincoln County Land Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) Lincoln County, Nevada, encompasses an area of 10,132 square miles of the State of Nevada;

(2) approximately 98 percent of the County is owned by the Federal Government;

(3) the city of Mesquite, Nevada, needs land for an organized approach for expansion to the north;

(4) citizens of the County would benefit through enhanced county services and schools from the increased private property tax base due to commercial and residential development;

(5) the County would see improvement to the budget for the county and school services through the immediate distribution of sale receipts from the Secretary selling land through a competitive bidding process;

(6) a cooperative approach among the Bureau of Land Management, the County, the City, and other local government entities will ensure continuing communication between those entities;

(7) the Federal Government will be fairly compensated for the sale of public land; and

(8) the proposed Caliente Management Framework Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement for the Management of Desert Tortoise Habitat Plan identify specific public land as being suitable for disposal.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to provide for the orderly disposal of certain public land in the County; and

(2) to provide for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in the State of Nevada.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act: